

CHAPTER 478

H.B. No. 887

AN ACT

relating to the award of attorney's fees and expenses in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 106.002, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 106.002. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES. (a) In a suit under this title, the court may *render judgment for* ~~order~~ reasonable attorney's fees *and expenses* ~~[as costs]~~ and order the *judgment and postjudgment interest* ~~[fees]~~ to be paid directly to an attorney.

(b) A *judgment for* ~~[An award of]~~ attorney's fees *and expenses* may be enforced in the attorney's name by any means available for the enforcement of a judgment for debt.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and applies to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship pending in a trial court on that date or filed on or after that date.

Passed by the House on April 3, 2003, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 21, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 20, 2003.

Effective September 1, 2003.

CHAPTER 479

H.B. No. 888

AN ACT

relating to progressive sanctions programs for juvenile offenders.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 53.013, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 53.013. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIONS PROGRAM. ~~[(a)]~~ Each juvenile board may adopt a progressive sanctions program using the *model* ~~[guidelines]~~ for progressive sanctions in Chapter 59.

~~[(b) A juvenile court or probation department that deviates from the guidelines under Section 59.003 shall state in writing the reasons for the deviation and submit the statement to the juvenile board regardless of whether the juvenile board has adopted a progressive sanctions program.]~~

SECTION 2. The heading to Chapter 59, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 59. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIONS MODEL [GUIDELINES]

SECTION 3. Section 59.001, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 59.001. PURPOSES. The purposes of the progressive sanctions *model* ~~[guidelines]~~ are to:

- (1) ensure that juvenile offenders face uniform and consistent consequences and punishments that correspond to the seriousness of each offender's current offense, prior delinquent history, special treatment or training needs, and effectiveness of prior interventions;
- (2) balance public protection and rehabilitation while holding juvenile offenders accountable;
- (3) permit flexibility in the decisions made in relation to the juvenile offender to the extent allowed by law;
- (4) consider the juvenile offender's circumstances; ~~[and]~~